

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 02336 081743Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05
EB-08 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /064 W
-----062748 081747Z /70
O 081717Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6307
INFO EC COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COPENHAGEN 2336

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, PGOV, PORC, DA
SUBJECT: EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING, COPENHAGEN, APRIL 7-8
DECLARATION ON DEMOCRACY

REF: COPENHAGEN 2332, COPENHAGEN 2335

DURING READ-OUT FOLLOWING EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING, DANES GAVE US
TEXT OF DECLARATION ON DEMOCRACY:

QUOTE

DECLARATION ON DEMOCRACY

THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE MEMBER STATES MEETING WITHIN THE
EUROPEAN COUNCIL MAKE THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION.

THE ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BY DIRECT
UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE IS AN EVENT OF OUTSTANDING IMPORTANCE FOR THE
FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND A VIVID DEMONSTRATION OF
THE IDEALS OF DEMOCRACY SHARED BY THE PEOPLE WITHIN THEM.

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THE CREATION OF THE COMMUNITIES, WHICH IS THE FOUNDATION OF EVER
CLOSER UNION AMONG THE PEOPLES OF EUROPE CALLED FOR IN THE TREATY
OF ROME, MARKED THE DETERMINATION OF THEIR FOUNDERS TO STRENGTHEN
THE PROTECTION OF PEACE AND FREEDOM.

THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT CONFIRM THEIR WILL, AS EXPRESSED IN THE
COPENHAGEN DECLARATION ON THE EUROPEAN IDENTITY, TO ENSURE THAT THE

CHERISHED VALUES OF THEIR LEGAL, POLITICAL AND MORAL ORDER ARE RESPECTED AND TO SAFEGUARD THE PRINCIPLES OF REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY, OF THE RULE OF LAW, OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE APPLICATION OF THESE PRINCIPLES IMPLIES A POLITICAL SYSTEM OF PLURALIST DEMOCRACY WHICH GUARANTEES BOTH THE FREE EXPRESSION OF OPINIONS WITHIN THE CONSTITUTIONAL ORGANISATION OF POWERS AND THE PROCEDURES NECESSARY FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH THE JOINT DECLARATION BY THE ASSEMBLY, THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMISSION WHEREBY THESE INSTITUTIONS EXPRESSED THEIR DETERMINATION TO RESPECT FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IN PURSUING THE AIMS OF THE COMMUNITIES.

THEY SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT RESPECT FOR AND MAINTENANCE OF REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN EACH MEMBER STATE ARE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES.

UNQUOTE

COMMENT: DANES TOLD US THAT DURING DISCUSSION OF THIS ITEM, HEADS OF GOVERNMENT HAD TWO IDEAS IN MIND: (1) TO SET STAGE FOR ENLARGEMENT BY REPLYING IN A SENSE TO SPAIN, GREECE, AND PORTUGAL, ALL OF WHICH HAD STRESSED THEIR SUPPORT OF DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES WHEN APPLYING FOR EC MEMBERSHIP; AND (2) AS COROLLARY TO STATE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENT ON DIRECT ELECTIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMOCRACY, MEETINGS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, DECLARATION, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978COPENH02336
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780152-0901
Format: TEL
From: COPENHAGEN USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780478/aaaacoew.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 37b4aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 COPENHAGEN 2332, 78 COPENHAGEN 2335
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3030989
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING, COPENHAGEN, APRIL 7-8 DELCARATION ON DEMOCRACY
TAGS: PGOV, PORG, DA, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/37b4aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014